

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 236810 TOSEC 270679

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (INCORRECT TEXT)

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM CAIRO DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 1976
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 12912

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG US EG IS

SUBJ: AMOCO ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: A) SECTO 27167, B) CAIRO 12267

1. AS I SUSPECTED HE WOULD, FAHMY RAISED WITH ME DURING
OUR MEETING THIS MORNING ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO OIL
OPERATIONS. HE SAID FIRST THAT HE APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS
WE HAD MADE AND THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO HIM. FOR THE
TIME BEING EGYPT WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT, BUT IT CANNOT
ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT ISRAEL HAS TO GIVE PERMISSION
FOR PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ. ANY COMPROMISE

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WE ARE ABLE TO WORK OUT THAT WOULD PRODUCE A PRACTICAL

SOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF ISRAELI PERMISSION FOR AMOCO'S LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES. AS MINISTER PETROLEUM HILAL HAD INFORMED ME, AMOCO SHOULD BEGIN AT NEW SITE AT END OF OCTOBER.

2. EGYPT CONTINUES TO LOOK AT THIS QUESTION SERIOUSLY BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT. FAHMY WISHED ME TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD APPROVED FAHMY'S RECOMMENDATION FOR AN ESCALATING SERIES OF OPTIONS WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED TO ME IN OUR LAST MEETING (REF B). THE FIRST OF THESE STEPS HAS ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT; THAT IS , THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS WITH ISRAELIS UNTIL ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

3. I RESPONDED THAT, AS YOU HAD SAID IN YOUR MESSAGE, YOU PLANNED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN FURTHER DETAIL WITH FAHMY WHEN HE WENT TO THE US. FAMY RESPONDED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DOING SO, BUT AS REPORTED SEPTEL, HE WAS NOT AT ALL SO SURE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT US FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: FAHMY MADE STATEMENTS ABOVE IN NON-EMOTIONAL BUT VERY SERIOUS MANNER. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ALLUDE TO ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HIS REMARKS ABOUT NOT ACCEPTING THE PRINCIPLE OF ISRAEL GIVING PERMISSION FOR OIL OPERATIONS MUST BE PARTLY REFLECTION OF ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS THAT ISRAEL HAD SUCCESSFULLY ASSERTED ITS CLAIM TO CONTROL OF THE GULF OF SUEZ WEST OF THE MEDIAN LINE.
MATHEWS UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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